

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Marshall Draw Bullhog

Proposal Number: 1343

DWR Region: Northeastern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Daggett

Project Manager: Tory Mathis

PM Phone: 4357816733

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: Along the Crouse canyon road on Diamond Mountain, Daggett county, Utah at the head of Crouse canyon.

Project Description: Mulch Pinyon and Juniper trees in approximately 400 acres of sagebrush habitat on Diamond Mountain.

Description of Problem/Need: The Vernal field office of the BLM has been conducting prescribed fires in the Marshall Draw area over the past several years. The focus of these burns has been hazardous fuels reduction as well as aspen regeneration. These burned areas have consisted of pinyon/juniper woodlands on the slopes and ridges along with sagebrush and grass draws being encroached by conifers. The DWR has assisted the BLM with re-seeding much of the burned area and has identified these areas as a bighorn sheep release site. The fires in 2008 did not burn as well as desired in the sagebrush and grass bottoms on the west side of Crouse canyon road. This project will use a rubber-tired bullhog machine to mulch the pinyon and juniper trees in 400 acres of these sagebrush and grassy areas. The area is crucial calving and fawning habitat for elk and mule deer, and crucial brood rearing habitat for sage grouse. There is a sage grouse lek within 3 miles of the project site.

Objectives: Reduce hazardous fuels and improve bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, and sage grouse habitat by removing pinyon and juniper trees.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project will be done to compliment prescribed burns in the Marshall Draw/Crouse Canyon area. The project supports herd management plans for mule deer (a Tier III species), elk, and bighorn sheep (a Tier III species). Bighorn sheep are expected to be released in the area in the next couple years. The project will also benefit sage grouse (a Tier II species) and the shrubsteppe habitat, a key habitat for species of concern as outlined in the WAP. Crouse creek, which runs through the project area has been identified by DWR fisheries staff in the Utah CRCT Conservation Strategy as a potential site for reintroduction of Colorado River Cutthroat trout (a Tier I species). It is anticipated that the proposed project will improve watershed quality, promoting decreased silt loading and increased water flows.

Potential Risks: None anticipated

Proposed Methods: Pinyon and Juniper trees will be shredded using a rubber-tired bullhog machine with mulch being left on-site.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\NER\1343.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Repeat photopoints will be established to monitor changes in vegetation.

Grazing Management: The project falls in a retired allotment, so no changes in grazing management are necessary.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Bighorn Sheep

Elk

Greater Sage-grouse

Shrubsteppe Birds

Rio Grande Wild Turkey

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
DWR	378
BLM	12
Total	390

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$79,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$79,000.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Bullhog contract @ \$200/acre	\$78,000.00	\$0.00
Motor Pool	vehicle mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$79,000.00	\$0.00

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Big Game	75
Upland Game	25
Total	100.00%

Project Map:

